

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1. (original) An iris control apparatus of a television camera comprising:
 - a solid state image pickup device for outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing an object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a short time;
 - a division unit for dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of predetermined areas;
 - a detection unit for detecting a first and a second area, each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;
 - a weighting unit for applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively; and
 - a control unit for controlling an iris of a lens, through which said light beams are applied to said solid state image pickup device, in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.
2. (original) An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first area is an area in which a mean luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal becomes minimal.

3. (original) An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said weighting unit applies weighting so that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

4. (original) An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said weighting unit applies predetermined weighting so that a decrement ratio of a level of said long-time exposure video signal of said first area becomes greater than that of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area.

5. (currently amended) An iris control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit applies said weighted long-time exposure video signal to said iris of said lens in synchronism with the video signal from said solid state image pickup device.

6. (original) A television camera comprising:
a lens unit having an iris;
a solid state image pickup device, to which light beams from an object are applied through said lens, for outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from said light beams exposing said object for a short time;
a division unit for dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of predetermined areas;

a detection unit for detecting a first and a second area, each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;

a weighting unit for applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively;

a synthesis unit for synthesizing said long-time exposure video signal and said short-time exposure video signal; and

a control unit for controlling said iris of said lens in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.

7. (original) A television camera according to claim 6, wherein said weighting unit applies weighting so that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

Claim 8 (canceled).

9. (currently amended) An iris control method of a television camera comprising the steps of:

outputting on a time division basis a long-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing an object for a long time and a short-time exposure video signal obtained from light beams exposing said object for a short time;

b) dividing an image screen displayed by said long-time exposure video signal into a plurality of predetermined areas;

c) detecting a first and a second area each of which has a different luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal;

d) applying different weighting to said long-time exposure video signals of said first and second areas, respectively; and

e) controlling an iris of a lens, through which said light beams are applied to said solid state image pickup device, in response to said weighted long-time exposure video signal.

10. (original) An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said first area is an area in which the luminance level of said long-time exposure video signal becomes minimal.

11. (original) An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) applies weighting so that the video signal level of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area is decreased.

12. (original) An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step d) applies predetermined weighting so that a decrement ratio of a level of said long-time exposure video signal of said first area becomes greater than that of said long-time exposure video signal of said second area.

13. (currently amended) An iris control method according to claim 9, wherein said step e) applies said weighted long-time exposure video signal to said

iris of said lens in synchronism with the video signal from said solid state image pickup device.